



# **COEUR D'ALENE BASIN News Briefs**

**DATE August 2001**

**Issue No. 24**

## **Environmental Protection Agency Highlights**

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**Feasibility Study Human Health Alternatives** - Sean Sheldrake -

(206) 553-1220

**Feasibility Study Ecological Health Alternatives** - Mary Jane Nearman -

(206) 553-6642 or Anne Dailey - (206) 553-2110

**Removals** - Bill Longston - (206) 553-1679 or Carl Kitz -

(206) 553-1671

**Community Outreach** - Dick Martindale - (208) 664-4588 or

Marianne Deppman - (206) 553-1237

## **Public Workshops Previewing Current Cleanup Options**

Four separate public workshops were held to share current cleanup strategies with citizens, in order to gather more public input prior to the October release of the Proposed Plan. The workshops were held in Wallace, Medimont, Coeur d'Alene, and Spokane. Representatives from the EPA, State of Idaho, State of Washington, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Spokane Tribe, USGS, USFW, and others presented ideas and plans for Basin cleanup.

## **Community Outreach Survey**

"Raw Data" from the recent questionnaire survey (sent randomly and to the large Basin mailing list) has been compiled. 476 responses (about 25%) were received. In addition to total survey results, raw data was also compiled in four geographic areas: Mullan to Kingston, Cataldo to Harrison, Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls, and Spokane Valley/City of Spokane/Western Spokane County. The survey was conducted to evaluate the efforts EPA has taken to inform and involve the public, and to improve upon the communication strategy. Though the final report is not expected for at least six weeks, some preliminary observations have been made.

- The study and cleanup of mine waste contamination in the Coeur d'Alene Basin is a "Very Important" issue to the survey participants. 52 percent of people said that the effects of the mine waste cleanup on human health was very important to them; 47 percent said the effects on the environment was very important and 35 percent said that the effects on the economy was very important to them.
- People in the Basin are actively involved:
  - 46 percent indicated they had attended a public meeting
  - 37 percent indicated they had participated in a citizens group.
  - 55 percent indicated they had expressed their concerns to EPA
  - 34 percent indicated they provided comments on materials out for public review
- People sent a clear message that they want to know that EPA is listening to their concerns and that their input is making a difference. Many people who responded to the survey indicated that they do not feel the agency understands or responds to their concerns. Therefore, the EPA needs to make more of an effort to let people know that their input is important, and demonstrate how that input has influenced the outcomes.
- There is a wide range of views in the Basin, and a "one-size-fits-all" communication strategy may not be effective. However, there was a surprising consistency among the four geographic areas relative to their preference for receiving information: Frequent mailings with specific and brief information were preferred, while general informational meetings were not. People also indicated that they have received a considerable amount (85% of the total survey) of information from newspapers.

**Documents/Information recently added to the information repositories:**

Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan (1996)

**Other Agency/Entity Contacts and Highlights**

**Bureau of Land Management** - Contact: David Fortier - (208)769-5022

**Coeur d'Alene Tribe** - Contact: Phillip Cernera - (208)667-4119

**Panhandle Health District-** Contact: Jerry Cobb - (208) 783-0707

**Private Land Owners/Managers** - Contact Frank Frutchey -  
(208) 682-2077

**Silver Valley Natural Resource Trustees** - Contact:  
Marti Calabretta - (208) 786-2471

**State of Idaho** - Contact: Rob Hanson (208) 373-0290 or  
Kathy Johnson (208) 660-1146

**State of Washington Department of Ecology** - Contact: John Roland -  
(509) 625-5182

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service** - Contact: Dan Audet -  
(509) 893-8001

**United States Forest Service** - Contact: John Specht or  
Jeff Johnson - (208) 664-2318

**United States Geological Survey** - Contact: Paul Woods -  
(208) 387-1353

## **Calendar of Events**

**September 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 to 9 p.m.**

**Citizens Advisory Committee.** Rose Lake Historical Society Building (Rose Lake). Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan, Wetland Soils Chemical Stabilization, Bio-availability Testing, Coeur d'Alene River Hydrologic and Sediment Modeling, Update on Bunker Hill Site Progress and Plans, Report on CAC Membership Poll.

**September 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m.**

**Shoshone Natural Resources Coalition.** Brooks Hotel (500 Cedar Street, Wallace, ID) Contact Connie Fudge, 208-753-6022 (group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month)

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

**Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group.** Idaho Department of Fish and Game (2750 Kathleen Avenue). Gem Portal Pilot Project Update, Waterfowl Feeding Study Update.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to Noon**

**Coeur d'Alene River Basin Commission.** Associated Logging Contractors Building, Highway 95.